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PROGRAM Pauline Frederick & Colleagues STATION WETA Radio
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SUBJECT The Issue of Verification

HENRY TREWHITT: The political pressures on Turkey are growing, not declining, with time. Those of economic instability and bloodletting between Right and Left and those over the division of Cyprus are chronic. Now a new one has arisen, the issue of verification, how the U.S. will verify Soviet compliance with the pending SALT treaty after the loss of monitoring bases in Iran.

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Cord Meyer, a former CIA official, explains to NPR's John Dimsdale.

CORD MEYER: When we lost the sites, the problem was then how to recover the information that we no longer could obtain in any other way. One early solution was proposed, that The New York Times gave publicity to, which was that U-2s flying from Cyprus could conceivably be used to fly over Turkish territory, along the Soviet border, and from that position pick up the telemetry that we could no longer obtain from Iran.

There are problems. The U-2s can't be continuously on patrol. The difficulty of identifying a test launch in time to alert them to get into the air is a real problem. And they are of such a size in what they can carry that it is really a difficult technical problem to put on board the U-2s the amount of equipment and the type of equipment needed to do this very sensitive monitoring.

This, however, was one way of reducing the damage caused by the loss of the Iranian sites.

There are other downstream possible solutions. There's the

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